

Exodus 4:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth?
or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind?
have not I the LORD?

Analysis

And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? (וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלָיו מִי שָׁם לָאָדָם אוֹ מִי־יָשׁוּם אֵלִים אוֹ חֲרָשׁ אוֹ פֶקַח אוֹ עֵר הֲלֹא אֲנִכִּי יְהוָה) —God's response addresses Moses' excuse at its root: **Who made man's mouth?** God creates human faculties and can enable or disable them as He wills. **Dumb, deaf, seeing, blind**—God's sovereignty extends over all physical conditions. This isn't teaching that God causes all disabilities cruelly, but that He's sovereign over them and can work through them. **Have not I the LORD?** (הֲלֹא אֲנִכִּי יְהוָה)—rhetorical question asserting divine prerogative. If God made Moses' mouth, He can enable it for His purposes. The Creator can equip His creatures for any task He assigns.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures often viewed disabilities as divine judgment or curses. God's statement reframes disability within His sovereignty—not punishment, but part of His creative and redemptive purposes. This theology anticipates Jesus' teaching in John 9:3 (blind man's condition exists "that the works of God should be made manifest in him"). God's power shines through human limitation.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty over human abilities challenge you to stop using inadequacy as excuse for disobedience?
2. What does this verse teach about trusting God's enabling power rather than relying on natural talents or regretting limitations?

Interlinear Text

אִי אָמַר	יְהוָה:	אֵל יוֹ	מִי	יֵשׁ וּמִ	פֶּה	לְאָדָם	אִי
said	And the LORD	H413	H4310	or who maketh	mouth	man's	H176
H559	H3068			H7760	H6310	H120	
מִי	יֵשׁ וּמִ	אֵל יוֹ	אִי	חֵרֵשׁ	אִי	פֶּקֶדֶן	אִי
H4310	or who maketh	the dumb	H176	or deaf	H176	or the seeing	H176
	H7760	H483		H2795		H6493	
עוֹר	הֵל אֵ	אֶנֶכִּי	יְהוָה:				
or the blind	H3808	H595	And the LORD				
H5787			H3068				

Additional Cross-References

Amos 3:6 (References Lord): Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?

Psalms 146:8 (References Lord): The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous:

Isaiah 6:7 (Parallel theme): And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

Psalms 94:9 (Parallel theme): He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?

Psalms 51:15 (References Lord): O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Jeremiah 1:9 (References Lord): Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

Jeremiah 1:6 (References Lord): Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.

Ezekiel 33:22 (References Lord): Now the hand of the LORD was upon me in the evening, afore he that was escaped came; and had opened my mouth, until he came to me in the morning; and my mouth was opened, and I was no more dumb.

Isaiah 42:7 (Parallel theme): To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

Matthew 11:5 (Parallel theme): The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.